

## Responding to the Refugee Crisis

1. Even though you will not find the word “refugee” in the Scriptures, God’s People are sojourners. We all are refugees in a land to which we don’t ultimately belong. We are citizens of a Kingdom whose King is God (“Metoicos” – Resident Aliens). (see Gen. 3:22; Gen. 37-46; 1 Chron 29:15-16; Heb. 11; Acts 7; Phil 3:20-21)
2. A common theme of Scripture is God’s care for the foreigner, widow and orphan. (see Lev.19:32-34; Deut 10:18-19; 27:19; 24:17-22; Psa 9:9; Psa 105; Psa 146:9; Prov 28:27; Isa 25:4;58:6-11; James 1:27)
3. God identifies with the refugee (in Egypt after his birth), he understands the life of the sojourner. They are made in His image (see Gen 1:26,28; Psa 107; Matt 2:19-21; Matt 8:20, Matt 12:1; Matt 25:31-46)
4. God Expects the nations to treat refugees/foreigner just like they are native born, as they themselves wish to be treated. (Lev 19:34; Num 15:16; Deut 23:15; Is 16:3-5)
5. In Christ we are no longer strangers, but beloved children and heirs according to His promise. (see Eph 2:11-22, 19; Gal 3:29)
6. The stranger affords God’s people the opportunity to show hospitality. We are to stand up for the refugee, sharing of our resources even to the point of selling our possessions in order that they may have enough (see Gen 18; Ex 2, Deut 24:19-21; 14:28-29; 26:12; I Kings 17:7-16; Josh 20; Jer. 5:5-7; Luke 9:3-5; Luke 12:33; Rom 12:13; Heb 13:2, 1 Pet 4:9)
7. God’s people are deemed obedient followers and blessed when they show compassion to the foreigner and stranger. (Josh 20; Heb 13:1-2; Deut 24:19-21; Deut 27:19; Is 58:6-11; Matt 25:31-46; Luke 14:13-14)
8. Hospitality is a sign of a grateful and obedient heart (Luke 14:12; Acts 4:32; Rom 12:13)

Actions:

Sign the petition to encourage our government to stand with refugees:

<https://wewelcomerefugees.com/>

Find nearby agencies that are working to re-settle refugees, and volunteer your time: <https://wewelcomerefugees.com/welcome/>

Contribute “welcome kits” to refugees who may have been forced to leave their home at a moment’s notice: <http://www.worldrelief.org/welcome-kits/>

Consider one of these ways to tangibly bring good to those suffering:

<http://www.crs.org/media-center/syrian-refugee-crisis-7-things-you-can-do-help>

Find more ways to think creatively about bringing hope to the sorrow of this crisis: <https://wewelcomerefugees.com/give/>

Understand the geography, scope, and impact of the situation:

